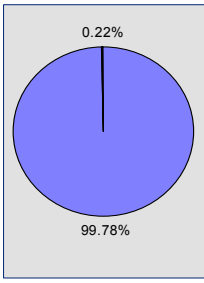
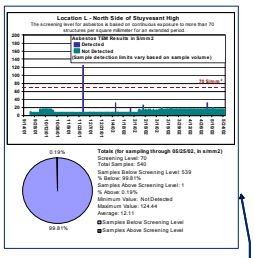
EPA Fixed Air Monitoring Stations World Trade Center Area Asbestos TEM Daily Results in S/mm2

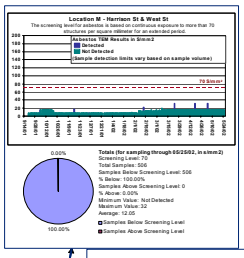
Each chart shows how much asbestos EPA measured in the air at a given site from 9/15/01 through 5/25/02.

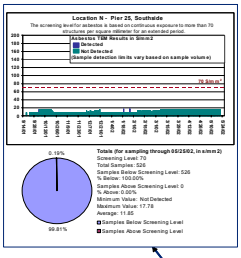


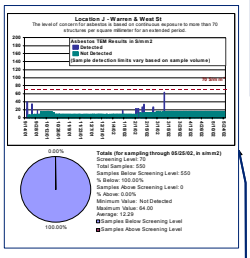
Totals (for sampling through 05/25/02, in s/mm2)
Screening Level: 70
Total Samples: 9608
Samples Below Screening Level: 9587
% Below: 99.78%
Samples Above Screening Level: 21
% Above: 0.22%
Minimum Value: Not Detected
Maximum Value: 213.33
Average: 12.39

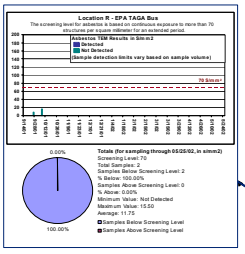
Samples Below Screening Level
Samples Above Screening Level

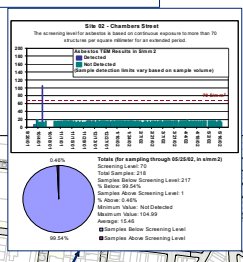


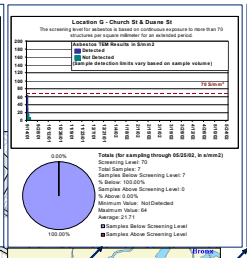


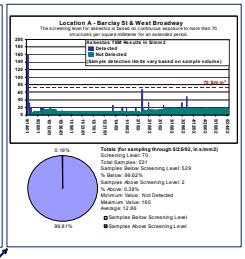


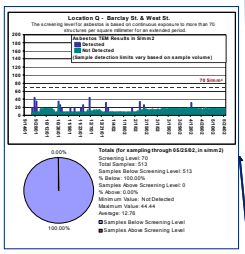


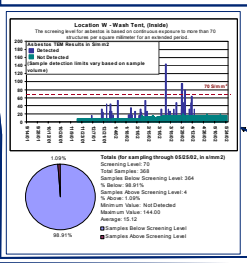


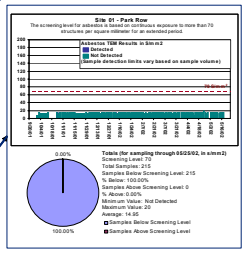


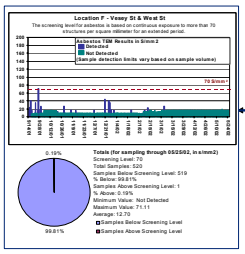


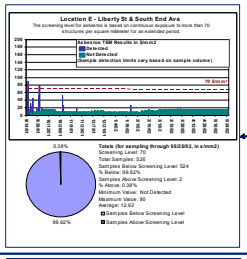


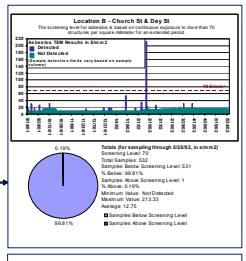


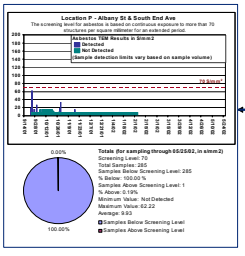


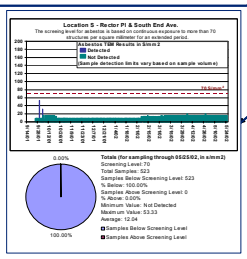


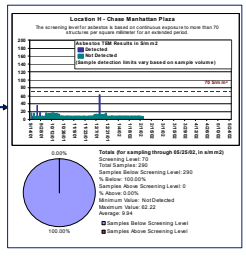


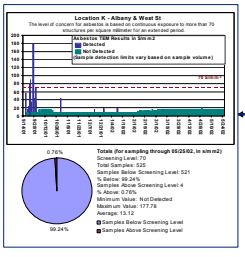


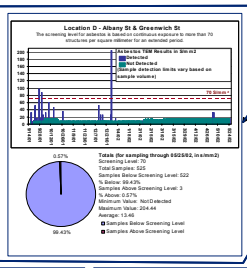


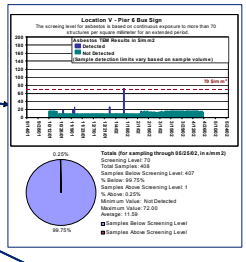


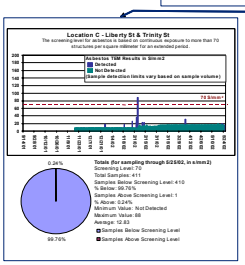


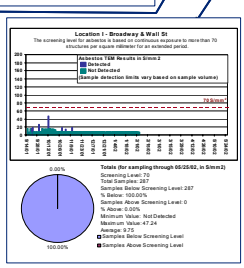


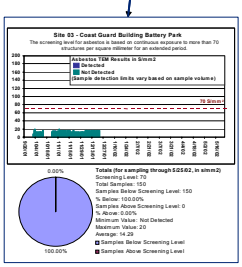


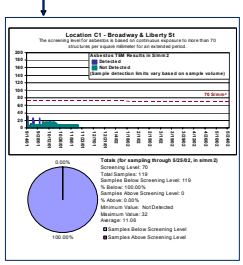


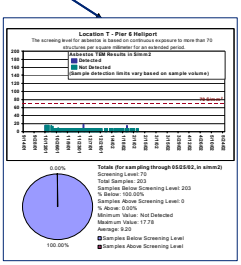


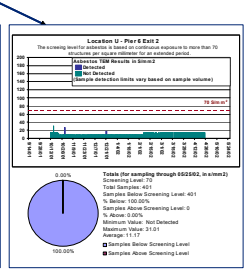


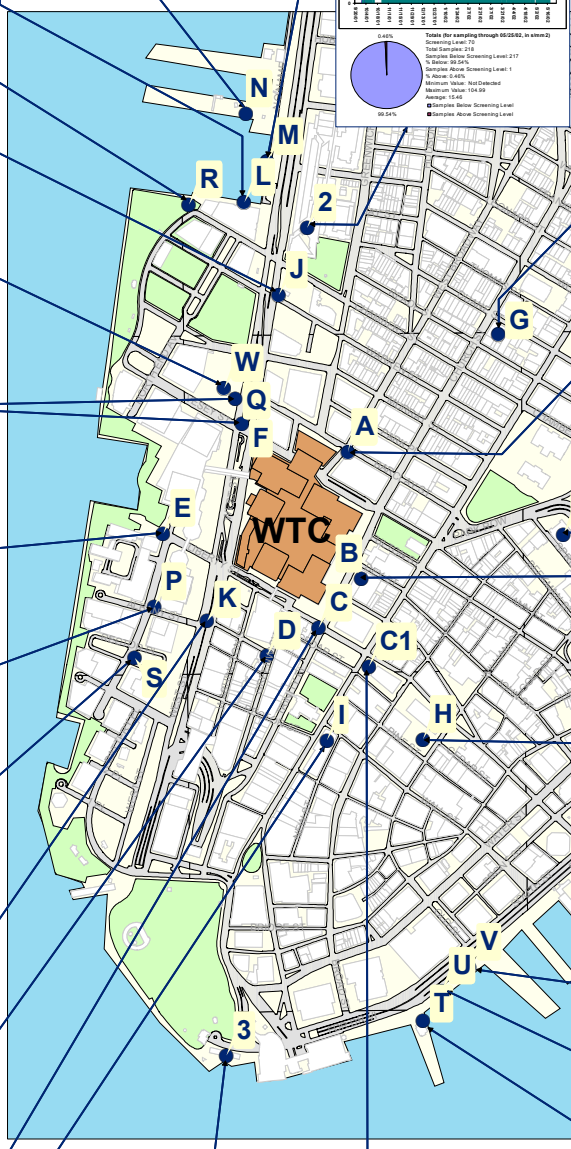


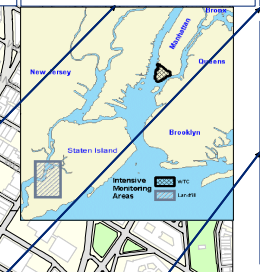












In evaluating data from the World Trade Center and the surrounding areas, EPA is using a protective standard under AHERA, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, to evaluate the risk from asbestos in the outdoor and indoor air. This is a very stringent standard that is used to determine whether children may re-enter a school building after asbestos has been removed or abated. It is based on assumptions of long-term exposure. EPA has chosen to use this standard because it is the most stringent and protective, even though it is unlikely that the public will be exposed to asbestos from the World Trade Center site for extended periods of time. To determine asbestos levels, air filters are collected from monitoring equipment through which air in the school building has passed and viewed through a microscope. The number of structures - material that has asbestos fibers on or in it - is then counted. The measurements must be 70 or fewer structures per square millimeter before children are allowed inside. Levels above 70 structures per square millimeter do NOT imply an immediate health threat. Asbestos exposure becomes a health concern when high concentrations of asbestos fibers are inhaled over a long period. Illness is very unlikely to result from a single, high-level exposure, or from a short period of exposure to lower levels.

EPA US EPA Region 2
World Trade Center Response
Map Created 03/06/02

See http://www.epa.gov/epahome/wtc/ for additional monitoring information